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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 440571

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Kenneth M. WILLIAMSON et al.

United States National Phase of  
International Application  
No. PCT/US00/26112

Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: March 19, 2002

For: FILTER ELEMENTS AND FILTERING  
METHODS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

*IN THE CLAIMS:*

Replace the existing claims with:

3. A filter element as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first functional drainage layer has an edgewise flow resistance at most approximately 50% that of the filter layer.
4. A filter element as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first leg contacts the second leg of the same pleat and the second leg of an adjoining pleat over a substantially continuous region extending for a substantial portion of the height of the first leg and over at least fifty percent of an axial length of the filter element.
5. A filter element as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pleated composite includes a second functional drainage layer disposed on the second side of the filter layer and comprising a functional material and having a lower edgewise flow resistance than the filter layer.

In re Appln. of Williamson et al.  
Application No. Unassigned

6. A filter element as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first functional drainage layer comprises a porous fibrous sheet containing the functional material.
7. A filter element as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first functional drainage layer contacts the filter layer.
8. A filter element as claimed in claim 1 wherein the filter element is cylindrical.
9. A filter element as claimed in claim 1 wherein a plurality of the pleats each have a radially outer end displaced in a circumferential direction of the filter element with respect to a radially inner end of the pleat.
10. A filter element as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pleats are substantially parallel to each other.
14. A filter element as claimed in claim 1 wherein a drainage layer comprises a fibrous sheet in which particles of the functional material are integrated.
17. A filter element as claimed in claim 15 wherein the support plate is annular and an opening is at a radial center of the support plate.
20. A filter element as claimed in claim 18 wherein each of the drainage layers comprises a functional material.
21. A filter element as claimed in any of claim 18 wherein each of the filter layers and each of the drainage layers is substantially flat.
24. A method as claimed in claim 22 including passing the fluid in an axial direction of the filter element between opposite lengthwise ends thereof.

